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### ***Ten Things You Can Do to Prevent Stormwater Runoff Pollution***

- 💧 Never dump anything down stormdrains or into waterways.
- 💧 Use fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides sparingly; don't overwater your lawn.
- 💧 Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway.
- 💧 Dispose of used auto fluids and batteries at designated drop-off or recycling locations. Use an absorbent like kitty litter or sand to soak up oil and antifreeze spills. Sweep up the mixture, bag it, and place it in the garbage.
- 💧 Pick up after your pet; dispose of waste in a trash receptacle.
- 💧 Have your septic tank professionally inspected every 3 years and pumped regularly (every 3-5 years).
- 💧 Prevent soil erosion, vegetate bare spots, and avoid overgrazing of horses and livestock, if applicable.
- 💧 During construction activities, minimize disturbed areas, stabilize slopes, avoid disturbing natural channels, and limit the amount of dirt tracked into and out of the project site.
- 💧 Cover piles of loose landscaping materials, such as sand, bark, and dirt.
- 💧 Do not disturb vegetation or soil in and around natural waterways.



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# **PLACER COUNTY'S STORMWATER QUALITY PROGRAM**



Public Information Brochure

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The goal of Placer County's Stormwater Quality Program is to protect the health of all of the County's creeks, streams, rivers, and lakes.



In recent years, a number of federal and state regulations have been created to control stormwater pollution. A 1990 regulation by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires urban and growing areas to apply for a special permit regulating stormwater flows into natural water bodies. This permit is called a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The NPDES regulations require permitted areas to develop and implement a Stormwater Management Program identifying specific activities to eliminate or control stormwater pollution. In 2003, most of Placer County became subject to these regulations based on population density. The cities of Auburn, Colfax, Lincoln, Loomis, Rocklin, and Roseville will have separate permits.

Placer County's Stormwater Quality Program includes educational outreach to inform members of the public and businesses of the effects of their activities, a new ordinance that will effectively prohibit the disposal of anything except stormwater into our ditches, creeks, and streams, controls on construction activities, standards for design of new developments, and a program to assure that County operations themselves are clean.



## *Impacts of Stormwater Discharges on Water Bodies*

### *What is stormwater runoff?*

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and roads prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.

### *Why is stormwater runoff a problem?*

Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and rapidly flow in large quantities into a storm drain system or directly to a lake, stream, river, or wetland. **Stormwater is not treated and flows directly into natural waterways. Contaminants harm fish and wildlife and pollute the water we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water.**



### *The effects of pollution*

Pollutants such as motor oil, grease, automotive fluids, pesticides, fertilizers, pet wastes, sediment, and litter can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals, and people.

Household hazardous wastes such as insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil, and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life. People and wildlife can become sick or die from eating diseased fish and shellfish or ingesting polluted water.

Sediment can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for salmon to spawn and aquatic plants to grow.

Debris such as plastic bags, six-pack rings, bottles, and cigarette butts can choke, suffocate, or entangle aquatic life like fish, turtles, and birds.

Bacteria and other pathogens can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards.

Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms. When algae die, they sink to the bottom and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms cannot exist in water with low dissolved oxygen levels.



### *Contact Information:*

**Stormwater Quality Program**  
(530) 889-7500  
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[www.placer.ca.gov/works/strmwtr](http://www.placer.ca.gov/works/strmwtr)

**Household Hazardous Waste Disposal and Recycling Information**  
(916) 645-5230, ext. 2013  
[www.placer.ca.gov/facility/s-waste](http://www.placer.ca.gov/facility/s-waste)



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